

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10, 13, 17-18, 20-21, 24-32, 35-37 and 39-45 are currently active in this case. Claims 11, 19 and 38 were canceled by a previous amendment. The present amendment amends Claims 9 and 13 without introducing any new matter, and cancels Claims 1-9, 12, 14-16, 22-23 and 33-34 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Takemura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,577). Claims 17-18, 20-21, 24-32, 35-37 and 39-45 were allowed and Claims 12-13 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claim 9 is amended to recite all of the features of allowable, dependent Claim 12. Claim 9 is thus in condition for allowance. Consequently, Claim 12 is canceled, and Claim 13 is amended to change the claim dependency from Claim 12 to Claim 9.

In response to the restriction requirement and election of species made by the Examiner, and the elections made previously without traverse, Claims 1-8, 14-16, 22-23 and 33-34, directed to non-elected inventions, are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to present claims directed to the non-elected inventions in a divisional application.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants'

representative at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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